

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WP NO. 5 (FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)

SESSION, SEP 27-28, L976

1. SIXTEEN COUNTRIES AND EC REPRESENTED; OF IMPORTANT
FRUIT PRODUCERS, SPAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA ABSENT. AGENDA
ADOPTED (AGR/WP5/A(76)2.

2. EXAMINATION OF 1976/77 CROP PROSPECTS FOR TABLE
APPLES SHOWED GENERAL DROP TO APPROXIMATE 1974
PRODUCTION LEVELS IN 1976 AFTER 1975 BUMPER CROP IN
MOST COUNTRIES; ONLY SPANISH PRODUCTION CONTINUED TO
INCREASE TO 1,048,000 M.T. LATEST FRENCH PRODUCTION
ESTIMATE OF 1,723,000 UP FROM 1,625,000 T IN
QUESTIONNAIRE RETURN AND 1,381,259 T JULY 1 FORECAST
REPORTED IN FR-6048. FRENCH DEL INDICATED 1976 EXPORT
ESTIMATE OF 550-600 THOUSAND T (CF. WITH 578,300 T
IN 1975 AND 662,000 T IN 1975-76, LAST FIGURE AS PER
FR-6048). ITALY'S EXPORT ESTIMATE 450,000 T
(CF. 383,000 IN 1975). PRODUCTION OF LATE PEARS
DIVERGED MORE FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY CF. WITH 1975
THEN IN THE CASE OF APPLES. FRENCH CROP UP 28 PCT.
ITALY (LARGEST PRODUCER) DOWN 8 PCT., EXPECTS TO
EXPORT 150,000 T (CF. 142,000). PRESS RELEASE AND
WORK TABLES MAILED TODAY.

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3. DISCUSSION OF AGR/WP5(76)2 AND TI(76)12

ISSUED AFTER JUNE 9 MEETING OF WP NO. 5 REVEALED SEVERE MARKETING DIFFICULTIES FOR LARGE PEACH CROP, PARTICULARLY IN FRANCE. MENTION MADE OF 320,000 T "WITHDRAWALS" IN THE EC DURING ONE MONTH, MOSTLY FOR DESTRUCTION. REFERENCE TO SMALL SIZE FRUIT LEADING TO REDUCED CONSUMPTION IN TERMS OF WEIGHT AND TO SHARP ITALIAN COMPETITION IN NORTHERN EC MARKETS AS A RESULT OF LOW VALUE OF LIRA.

4. DRAFT OF MEDIUM-TERM PROSPECT STUDY, AGR/WP5(76)5 DISTRIBUTED (MAILED TODAY, P-786 - TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING.

5. SECRETARIAT (VIATTE) INVITED DELEGATIONS TO FOLLOW US EXAMPLE AND TO REPORT THEIR CROP ESTIMATING METHODOLOGY (SEE DAA/4090 AND ANNEX, AUGUST 16, 1976 MAILED P-783). SHORT, RECEPTIVE AND POSITIVE REACTION ALTHOUGH WITH INDICATIONS OF SLOW FOLLOWUP.

6. UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS", CHAIR ASKED FOR PRIORITY DESIGNATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK BETWEEN (1) EXAMINATION OF CROP PROSPECTS, (2) CHANGES IN CONSUMER PREFERENCES, (3) DIRECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND (4) DIRECTING WORK OF SCHEME AND RELATING IT TO THE WP NO. 5 PROGRAM. CHAIR ALSO ADVISED WP THAT NORCOFEL WILL MEET IN MUNICH, GERMANY IN 1978. THEME OF THAT CONFERENCE WILL CENTER AROUND TOPIC (2) ABOVE IN THE SENSE OF STUDYING POSSIBLE DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN WHAT PRODUCER SUPPLIES AND WHAT CONSUMER DEMANDS. GERMAN DEL (PERNAU) SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE WORK FOCUS ON PRODUCTS OF IMPORTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND ON PRODUCTS WHICH HAD MARKETING PROBLEMS UNDER REGULATIONS.

7. AGREEMENT TO LIMIT FUTURE CROP PROSPECT EXAMINATIONS TO APPLES, PEARS, PEACHES, TABLE GRAPES, TOMATOES AND CITRUS AND TO DELETE APRICOTS AND PRUNES.

8. AGREED TO SKIP TRADITIONAL LATE NOVEMBER MEETING;
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HOWEVER CITRUS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE SENT OUT AND REPLIES WILL BE CIRCULATED. NEXT MEETING FEB 1977 - TO DISCUSS MEDIUM TERM FORECAST STUDY AND ALSO STUDY ON APPLE INDUSTRY IN GERMANY AND STATUS OF CITRUS CROP. JAHN EXPECTS TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN (CONTRARY TO HIS STATEMENTS A YEAR AGO). SEPTEMBER 1977 MEETING ON APPLES AND LATE PEARS TO BE HELD EARLIER - I.E. SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

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